

MINUTES

City of San Diego Park and Recreation Board BALBOA PARK COMMITTEE December 4, 2014

Meeting Location:

Balboa Park Club
2150 Pan American Road
San Diego, CA 92101

Mailing Address:

Balboa Park Administration Building
2125 Park Boulevard
San Diego, CA 92101-4792

ATTENDANCE:

Members Present

David Kinney – Chair
Andrew Kahng
Luanne Kanzawa
Don Liddell
Johanna S. Schiavoni
Rob Steppke

Members Absent

Kenneth Davenport – Vice Chair
Jeri Dilno
Micah Parzen
David Strickland
Michael Singleton

Staff Present

Susan Lowery-Mendoza, Balboa Park
Mario Llanos, Balboa Park
Michael Ruiz, Balboa Park 2015

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Kinney called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF DECEMBER 4, 2014

MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED MR. STEPPKE/MS. KANZAWA

A motion was made by Mr. Rob Steppke and seconded by Ms. Luanne Kanzawa, to approve the September 4, 2014 meeting minutes. The motion was approved (4-0-2), with Chair David Kinney and Don Liddell abstaining.

Ms. Kanzawa requested a correction to the minutes, page 1 under Non Agenda Public Comment, correct the name misspellings of Toni Atkins and Christine Kehoe.

REQUESTS FOR CONTINUANCES – None

NON AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT – None

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT – None

STAFF REPORT

Susan Lowery-Mendoza, District Manager for Balboa Park Facilities and Special Events

- The ADA barrier removal projects will continue throughout the Park.
- Civic Dance Arts Company was awarded the Bravo Award for Best Dance Show in 2014.
- December Nights will begin December 5, 2014 at 3:00 p.m. Opening ceremony will be at the Spreckels Organ Pavilion at 6:00 p.m.

Mario Llanos, Acting District Manager for Balboa Park Operations

- City staff placed over 500 poinsettias on display in the Botanical Building. The display runs from December 5, 2014 through the first of the year 2015. Poinsettias were generously funded by The Friends of Balboa Park, the Rodger and Mary Lindsay Poinsettia Fund, and the Balboa Park Trust of The San Diego Foundation.

Mr. Michael Ruiz, District Manager for 2015 Centennial Celebration

- Light the Park kicked off Monday, December 1, 2014 with the Mayor and Council President flipping the ceremonial switch that turned on the color-washed lights along El Prado.
- In partnership with The Friends of Balboa Park, the restoration of the directional signs along Park Boulevard were completed; an interpretive sign for the Balboa Park Club has been installed; and the Spreckels Organ Pavilion sign will be installed prior to the end of the year. Visitors will get a historic context of the key buildings and structures from the 1915 and 1935 Expositions to the present.
- Centennial Celebration banners will be placed in the central mesa parking lots in Balboa Park.

CULTURAL PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM UPDATES

Ms. Kanzawa reported the following:

- The Centennial Explorer Passes hit Balboa Park the last week of November. The front of the pass was recreated to look like an actual ticket from the 1915 Exposition.

Balboa Park Sustainability Program and Learning Institute

Ms. Kanzawa reported the following:

- California Public Utilities Commissioner, Carla Peterman visited Balboa Park Monday, December 1, 2014. Commissioner Peterman noted she would like for other cultural institutions in the nation to follow the Park's lead.
- The BPCP will hold their third annual seminar with Johns Hopkins University graduate students in Museum Studies. The focus will be on Making Museums Meaningful; final presentations will be given to Park staff Friday, January 16, 2015 at 3:00 p.m. at The Old Globe.

ACTION ITEMS

Consent

101. None

Adoption

201. House of Pacific Relations (HPR) International Cottages Plan Amendment Initiation

Presenters: Charles Daniels, Park Designer, Park and Recreation Department and Vicki Estrada, Estrada Land Planning, Rom Sarno Strategic Planning Committee, HPR, and Mary McDermott, Vice President, HPR

- Ms. McDermott requested approval of the plan amendment initiation.
- Mr. Daniels would like BPC to advise that the Supplemental Criteria in the General Plan's Land Use and Community Planning element have been met, and recommend the initiation of amendments to the Balboa Park Master Plan and the Central Mesa Precise Plan for the proposed expansion of the International Cottages area of Balboa Park.
- Ms. Estrada stated project highlights are to propose three new duplex buildings and one triplex building
- Mr. Sarno added the goal is to break ground sometime within the next year or two.

Committee Comments/Questions:

- Chairperson Kinney wanted further clarification about increasing public access and pedestrian circulation. Ms. Estrada replied they are planning a new walkway to increase access to the cottages and courtyard. Chairperson Kinney was concerned about how additional cottages would impact December Nights. Ms. Estrada replied it will be spread out and able to accommodate more people.
- Ms. Kanzawa inquired if the plan addresses the expansion of programs. Mr. Sarno replied it's addressed specifically in the strategic plan.
- Mr. Liddell asked how the plan would manage the concept of deciding whether or not to add additional cottages? Ms. Estrada stated they aren't anticipate more cottages at this time.
- Mr. Steppke asked if this was an appropriate time to revisit the Precise Plan. Ms. Estrada replied Mr. Daniels would respond to that question. She doesn't know why the City decided not to go back to the original Plan.
- How will the decision be made to choose which houses will receive cottages in the future? Long range planning is required.

Public Comment: Speaker: Ms. Judy Swink

- Ms. Swink asked whether Ms. Estrada can quantify the amount of additional parkland needed outside of what's already designated for the HPR. Ms. Estrada replied at this point they are still working on the plans. She added they will not have a decrease in open parkland.

MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED MS. JOANNA SCHIOVANI/MR. LIDDELL

A motion was made by Ms. Schiavoni and seconded by Mr. Liddell to recommend to the Planning Commission approval to initiate the process.

MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED MS. JOANNA SCHIOVANI/MR. LIDDELL

Motion was amended by Ms. Schiavoni and seconded by Mr. Liddell, as per staff's recommendations for the BPC to advise that the Supplemental Criteria in the General Plan have been met, and recommend the initiation of amendments to the Master Plan and Central Mesa Precise Plan. Motion carried (5-0-1) with Chairperson Kinney abstaining.

Special Events

301. San Diego Road Race Centennial Living History Car Show and Antique Car Tour

Presenters: Mr. Newell Booth, La Jolla Regional Group, Horseless Carriage Club of America, and Paula Brandes, San Diego Automobile Museum

Mr. Booth and Ms. Brandes requested approval for an event permit to host the San Diego Centennial Living History Car Show and Antique Car Tour on January 10, 2015 from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. in the Palisades parking lot near the San Diego Automotive Museum.

MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED MR. STEPPKE/MS. KANZAWA

A motion was made by Mr. Steppke and seconded by Ms. Kanzawa to approve this one-time event as presented. Motion carried (5-0-1) with Chairperson Kinney abstaining.

302. 34th Annual Tribute to the Legends Festival

Presenters: Makeda Cheatom, Executive Director and Jesse Graham, Manager, WorldBeat Cultural Center (WBCC)

Ms. Cheatom and Mr. Graham are requesting approval for an event permit to host the 34th annual Tribute to the Legends concert as part of WBCC's Black History Month . The WBCC plans to invite African American Physicist Dr. James Gates and other scientists and inventors to exhibit inside the WBCC. The concert is to be held on February 14-15, 2015 from 4:00 p.m. – 12:00 a.m. on the Cultural Turf East, located between the WBCC and Centro Cultural De La Raza.

Committee Comments/Questions:

- Mr. Steppke's pleased there will be no alcohol at the event. He thanked WBCC for doing an amazing job.

Public Comment: 1 - In Favor Speaker: Mr. Peter Comiskey

- Mr. Comiskey expressed his appreciation for WBCC's events. It's important to have more unique 2015 events that provide a specific focus and work directly with institutions. Over time it will help appeal to an out-of-market group.
- Chairperson Kinney added this is a one-time event. Future events will need to be brought back before the BPC.

MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED MR. STEPPKE/MS. SCHIAVONI

A motion was made by Mr. Steppke and seconded by Ms. Schiavoni to approve this one-time event as presented. Motion carried (5-0-1) with Chairperson Kinney abstaining.

303. San Diego Maker Faire

Presenters: Sue Varga, Director Balboa Park Marketing/Conservancy and Travis Good, Consultant

Ms. Varga and Mr. Good requested the approval for a park-wide event permit for the San Diego Maker Faire. The event will run October 3 – 4, 2015 from 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Committee Comments/Questions:

- The BPCP and Conservancy are in full support of the event.
- Ms. Schiavoni asked for clarification on the number of attendees. Ms. Varga replied there will be about 5,000 attendees per day with 75% being indoors and 25% outdoors. Mr. Good added there will be 10,000 attendees over both days.
- Chairperson Kinney inquired if this was a one-time event. Ms. Varga responded San Diego Maker Faire would like to host the event on an annual basis.

MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED MR. LIDDELL/MS. KANZAWA

A motion was made by Mr. Liddell and seconded by Ms. Kanzawa to approve this one-time event as presented. Motion carried (5-0-1) with Chairperson Kinney abstaining.

MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED MR. LIDDELL/MS. KANZAWA

Motion was amended by Mr. Liddell and seconded by Ms. Kanzawa to approve the event for this year as presented, and to require them to come back next year if they would like for it to be an annual event. Motion carried (5-0-1) with Chairperson Kinney abstaining.

304. Suja Rock ‘n’ Roll San Diego 5K

Presenters: Bruce Walton, Director, Competitor Group, Kellen Vigil, Event Manager, Competitor Group, and Kara Kong, Community Relations Manager, Competitor Group

Mr. Walton and his colleagues requested a waiver to the Summer Moratorium to add a 5K to their existing Rock ‘n’ Roll Marathon. The event will be held in Balboa Park (BP) on Saturday, May 20, 2015 starting at 7:00 a.m.

Committee Comments/Questions:

- Chairperson Kinney asked why BP was selected during the Summer Moratorium. Mr. Walton replied it’s a similar footprint for the big race on Sunday. Ms. Schiavoni commented there’s a big impact on BP in certain areas. She asked if they had considered making a donation to Balboa Park. Mr. Walton replied there has not been a specific discussion; the Marathon generates about \$3M in fees and taxes for the City’s general fund, and believes BP benefits from that fund. Mr. Walton added they could look into making a donation specifically to BP.
- Ms. Schiavoni further inquired if there would be a new set-up time for the additional race. Mr. Walton responded they do not require any additional time.
- Mr. Steppke expressed discomfort with the race. He’s not prepared to make an affirmation without all the facts. Mr. Walton replied the marathon is much smaller and the roads re-open much earlier.

MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED MR. LIDDELL/NO SECOND

A motion was made by Mr. Liddell, but was not seconded. The motion failed.

Committee Comments/Questions:

- Mr. Steppke asked if the presenters could work with a motion that might pass in February. Mr. Walton replied it would be difficult. They had hoped to get an approval from the BPC and take their plan to the Park and Recreation Director, so they could begin marketing the 5K race.

MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED MR. STEPPKE/NO SECOND

Motion was amended by Mr. Steppke to have the item moved to next month’s agenda, and have the presenters respond to requests that were made.

Comments/Questions:

- Mr. Walton doesn’t think there’s a mechanism to tie a contribution to an approval. What further clarification is the committee seeking? Mr. Steppke replied there would be an impact during Memorial Day Weekend. Mr. Walton responded the marathon takes place the following weekend.

MOTION: WITHDRAWN MR. STEPPKE

Motion was withdrawn by Mr. Steppke.

WORKSHOP ITEMS

401. Balboa Park Activity Center AT&T Wireless Site Proposal

Presenter: Danielle Weizman, M&M Telecom Inc.

Ms. Weizman stated Balboa Park is on high demand on AT&T's cellular network. AT&T has been experiencing gaps in capacity and coverage. They are looking for approval to construct an AT&T macro cell site at the Balboa Park Activity Center.

Committee Comments/Questions:

- Mr. Kahng stated the Activity Center seems to be one of the less invasive places.
- Mr. Steppke asked if there were other tree options. Mr. Llanos replied the Eucalyptus Faux Tree was the best fit.

INFORMATION ITEMS

501. None

SUB-COMMMTTEE REPORTS

601. Land-Use and Policy – None

602. West Mesa Subcommittee – The next meeting will be January, 2015.

COMMITTEE MEMBER'S REPORTS – None

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:21 p.m.

Next Schedule Meeting: Thursday, February 5, 2015
6:00 P.M.
Balboa Park Club
2150 Pan American Road West
San Diego, CA 92101

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Lowery-Mendoza
District Manager